CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Sun Mountain Lumber Alternative Practice – Nordwick
Proposed Implementation Date:	Upon approval
Proponent:	Sun Mountain Lumber, Inc.
Location:	Section 16, T4N, R5W
County:	Jefferson

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Sean Steinebach, Forester for Sun Mountain Lumber has requested an alternative practice to skid approximately two truck loads of logs across an un-named tributary of Beaver Creek; a class I stream.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

Sun Mountain Lumber, Inc.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

A 310 permit is required.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A – No Action. This alternative would not skid any logs across the stream.

Alternative B – Action. This alternative would skid approximately two truck loads of logs across an un-named tributary of Beaver Creek. The crossing would consist of the placement of logs within the stream channel to be removed immediately upon the completion of operations. A slash filter would be applied to the disturbed approaches to the crossing.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

No fragile or unstable soils have been identified. Mitigation measures would be to place logs in the stream channel during skidding operations, to be removed immediately upon completion of operations, install a slash filter windrow on both approaches to the crossing and grass seed the approaches as well. No unacceptable impacts are anticipated with the action alternative.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

The un-named tributary to Beaver Creek is a class 1 stream; with a channel width of eighteen inches and a depth of twelve inches. The eastern crossing approach is 5% slope, the western approach is 15%. With implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, unacceptable impacts would not be anticipated with the action alternative.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

N/A

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

The proposed crossing is in a drainage with no understory vegetation and a Douglas-fir, spruce, lodgepole pine overstory. There are no shrubs or riparian vegetation along the stream banks. No unacceptable impacts are anticipated with the action alternative.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

With implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, no unacceptable impacts are anticipated.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program was queried for known listed flora and fauna. The query identified possible habitat for gray wolves, Canadian lynx, wolverine, and fringed myotis (bat). No negative impacts to these or any other species are anticipated.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

None were identified.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

The crossing is in a drainage on private property with no viewshed to the public. No visual change or cumulative effects to aesthetics is anticipated.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:
Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

N/A

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:
List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

N/A

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

N/A

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

N/A

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:
Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

A small number of people would be employed during the duration of the harvest.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:
Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

N/A

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:
Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

N/A

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:
List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

N/A

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:
Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

N/A

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:
Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

N/A

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

N/A

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

N/A

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:
Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

N/A

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:**	Chris Town	**Date:**	10/1/2007
	Title:	Forester		

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative B – Action Alternative.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

No unacceptable impacts are anticipated.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

	EIS		More Detailed EA	**XX**	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	
	Title:	
Signature:		**Date**: